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Contents

		Page
1.	American Jewish Committee	2
2.	Centro Nazionale di Prevenzione e Difesa Sociale	4
3.	Félix Varela Center	6
4.	Global Education Associates	8
5.	International Association for Impact Assessment	11
6.	International Road Transport Union	14
7.	International Save the Children Alliance	16
8.	International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies	18
9.	World Evangelical Fellowship	21
10.	World Resources Institute	22

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1. American Jewish Committee

Special consultative status granted in 1997

Founded in 1906, the American Jewish Committee (AJC) seeks to foster the historic growth of democracy, to play a role in shaping the destiny of freedom, and to help build a more peaceful, humane and just world for all. AJC promotes the rights and freedoms of Jews the world over, promotes human rights for all persons everywhere, and works to eradicate anti-Semitism and other related forms of intolerance. It fosters inter-group harmony and understanding among diverse religious, ethnic, racial and social groups internationally. AJC works to improve human relations and advance justice and advocate for the development and implementation of United Nations standards as the best means of advancing democratization, social progress, and better standards of life in larger freedom.

Participation in United Nations meetings, conferences and the subsidiary bodies of the Council

Representatives of AJC attended meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women every year, 1997-2000, and the June 2000 special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000". AJC also served on the New York Host Committee for "Women 2000". AJC representatives participated at sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, where oral contributions were made regarding religious freedom, racial discrimination, and the rights of women, and at sessions of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. A representative participated in the special consultation of the High Commissioner for Human Rights with non-governmental organizations in 1998 ("Vienna + 5") during the Economic and Social Council session in New York. A representative also attended the special session of the General Assembly on population and development ("Cairo + 5") in New York in 1999. An AJC representative attended the fifth emergency session of the Commission on Human Rights in October 2000, offering oral remarks.

Additionally, a representative of AJC served as Chair of the Steering Committee (convened by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute) for the United States NGO coalition (of more than 120 national non-governmental organizations) to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A community action guide, entitled *In Your Hands*, was widely circulated throughout the United States for use in teach-ins and celebrations related to the anniversary.

Representatives of AJC participated in the Strasbourg and Santiago regional preparatory meetings for the World Conference against Racism, in October and December 2000, and in the May 2000 preparatory conference in Geneva.

Representatives of AJC continued throughout the reporting period to attend meetings of the Third Committee of the General Assembly and participated in or convened unofficial meetings or seminars with delegates to the Committee. In 1998, those included a seminar on strengthening the mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights. In 1997, an AJC representative convened a meeting with the Special Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance of the Commission on Human Rights. In 2000,

an expert consultation was convened by the Jacob Blaustein Institute with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Human Rights Defenders.

Representatives of AJC attended meetings of and/or held consultations with members of several United Nations bodies or agencies. For example, on 13 December 1999, the Secretary-General was a featured speaker at a dinner meeting organized by AJC, at which he received the National Leadership Award. The High Commissioner for Human Rights participated in a consultation on human rights mechanisms, convened by the Blaustein Institute and the Carter Center, in May 1998. Another conference with the High Commissioner participating was held in Geneva in June 2000, on human rights information-sharing.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

AJC contributed $200,000 to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons connected to the Kosovo crisis, April 1999.

In September of 1997-2000 AJC leadership delegations met with the heads of State or foreign ministers of more than 50 countries in privately organized meetings around the United Nations Millennium Summit and the opening of the General Assembly. The leaders came from such diverse countries as Argentina, Benin, Chile, Cyprus, Germany, Jordan, Kenya, Indonesia, Poland, Qatar, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam.

A member of the Executive Committee of AJC participated in and delivered a speech "Judaism and the Environment" at the Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders, 31 August 2000, preceding the Millennium Summit.

Publications

The United Nations University published an article by an AJC staff member, entitled "Building global awareness: NGOs and the enforcement of norms", in the University's volume *Kosovo and the Challenge of Humanitarian Intervention*, published in 2000. An AJC representative wrote about the development of women's human rights in an introductory essay to a collection of United Nations documents published by the American Bar Association in 1999, entitled *The International Human Rights of Women: Instruments of Change*. A representative of the Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights of AJC authored articles on the United Nations human rights programmes in the series entitled *A Global Agenda: Issues before the General Assembly*, published by the United Nations Association of the United States, annually, in 1997, 1998, and 1999.

Other activities

The American Jewish Committee co-sponsored an exhibit at United Nations Headquarters in New York, entitled, "Visas for Life", in spring 2000.

In the years 1997-2000, AJC established new partnerships with Jewish communities and organizations in the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Mexico and the Slovak Republic, and with United Nations Watch a non-governmental organization based in Geneva, Switzerland.

AJC's representative serves on the Bureau of the Human Rights Section of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. AJC's representative was awarded the Eleanor Schnurr Award by the Conference of United Nations Representatives of the United Nations Association of the United States for exceptional service in support of the work of the United Nations. A representative of the Blaustein Institute was invited to speak at the symposium at United Nations Headquarters, organized by the Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina in July 2000, to commemorate the massacre at Srebrenica five years earlier and discuss lessons learned.

2. Centro Nazionale di Prevenzione e Difesa Sociale

Special consultative status granted in 1989

During the period under review, the Centro Nazionale di Prevenzione e Difesa Sociale (CNPDS) continued its multifaceted activities of research and studies through its Standing Committees, active mainly in the legal, economic and sociological fields. It also organized several international meetings with the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council (ISPAC) of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. The following initiatives were taken, at the international level, in close cooperation with the United Nations:

1997

CNPDS organized with ISPAC, in connection with the United Nations Office at Vienna and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division, an international conference, Violent Crime and Conflicts: Towards Early Warning and Prevention Mechanisms (Courmayeur Mont Blanc, Italy, 4-6 October).

Under the auspices of UNESCO, CNPDS organized, in connection with the Italian National Commission for UNESCO, and international seminar, The School System: Cultural Pluralism of Processes of Economic and Technological Globalization (Courmayeur Mont Blanc, Italy, 28-30 November).

1998

With ISPAC, CNPDS organized an international conference, Responding to the Challenges of Transnational Crime, in connection with the United Nations Office at Vienna and the Centre for International Crime Prevention (Courmayeur Mont Blanc, 25-27 September).

From 5 to 8 May, an informal meeting of the nominated Chairpersons and General Rapporteur for the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (Rome, June-July 1998) was organized at Courmayeur Mont Blanc, through assistance given by CNPDS/ISPAC.

1999

The international symposium on the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was held (Rome, 26-27 February) at the Senate of Italy, with the active involvement of CNPDS.

From 5 to 11 September, CNPDS participated in the XVI International Congress of Penal Law (Budapest) and submitted a substantive contribution.

CNPDS contributed to the scientific preparation of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Vienna, April 2000) through the organization of the IXth Joint Colloquium on Offenders and Victims: Accountability and Fairness in the Justice Process (Courmayeur Mont Blanc, 24-26 September), jointly convened with the four major organizations active in the crime field (International Association of Penal Law, International Society for Criminology, International Society of Social Defence and Humane Criminal Policy, International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation) and under the auspices of the United Nations. The report of the Colloquium was submitted to the Congress.

With ISPAC and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, CNPDS organized an international conference, Responding to the Challenges of Corruption (Milan, 19-20 November). The conference made substantive contribution to the initiation of a United Nations convention on corruption by means of a proposal for the formal establishment of an expert group (Annex 5).

2000

In the framework of the Tenth United Nations Congress, on 12 April CNPDS organized, together with the International Association of Penal Law, International Society for Criminology, International Society of Social Defence and Humane Criminal Policy, and International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation, an ancillary meeting on Actual Experiences in the Field of Mediation and Restorative Justice: Difficulties Encountered, Implementation Prospects, at which a "reasoned" review of some experiences that are considered paradigmatic and indicative of the state of evolution of mediatory and restorative policies was carried out.

On 10 and 11 April, CNPDS, in cooperation with UNICRI and ISPAC, helped to organize one of the four official workshops devoted to combating corruption.

CNPDS organized, with ISPAC and in cooperation with the United Nations Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB) and the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP), the International Conference on Countering Terrorism through Enhanced International Cooperation (Courmayeur Mont Blanc, 22-24 September). The goal of the Conference was to enlarge the repertoire of responses to terrorism and to create new strategies for the prevention and control of this inhuman form of conflict-waging.

Under the auspices of UNESCO and in cooperation with the Italian National Commission for UNESCO, CNPDS organized the International Seminar on Localism and Globalization, Cultural Differences and Educational Backgrounds in Today's Complex World (Courmayeur Mont Blanc, 1-2 December). It focused on the problems generated in today's society by the confrontation of opposed tensions,

such as the processes of economic and cultural globalization and the proliferation of local and sectorial pressures.

CNPDS took an active part in the organization in Italy of the High-Level Political Signing Conference for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto (Palermo, 12-15 December). In that same framework CNPDS also co-organized the Symposium on the Rule of Law in the Global Village: Issues of Sovereignty and Universality (Palermo, 12-14 December), the Ancillary Meeting on Prevention Strategies against Organized Crime: the Role of Non-Governmental Organizations, jointly organized with ISPAC and the municipality of Palermo (Palermo, 13-14 December), and the Forum for Global Action against Trafficking in Persons (Catania, 14 December). More than 400 delegates, experts and representatives from non-governmental organizations were present, as well as a number of Ministers of Foreign and Internal Affairs of the countries that signed the Convention.

During the period under consideration, CNPDS backed the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network, giving its organizational and substantive support, jointly with ISPAC, to UNICRI for the Programme Network coordination meetings (Courmayeur Mont Blanc) in 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2000.

Through ISPAC, the United Nations Office at Vienna entrusted CNPDS with the production of a study report on the reversal of the burden of proof regarding the apparently illicit derivation of profits and assets in the context of the fight against the criminal economy. The research was conducted in close cooperation with the Department of Legal Sciences, University of Venice, on the basis of extensive research, taking into account the normative framework related to the prevailing legal systems and examining difficulties arising from, and the implications related to, the constitutional, penal and administrative regimes of countries from all the regions of the world.

3. Félix Varela Center

Special consultative status granted in 1997

The main activities of the Félix Varela Center (FVC) have focused on the programme "Ethics and culture for sustainable development", an educational, communication and research programme on ethics which aims at disseminating information on, and teaching the values of, the new concept of sustainable development, promoted by the United Nations. The attendance of the Félix Varela Center at United Nations meetings has been focused on the issue of sustainable development.

Aims

(a) To contribute to the promotion of a new global economic and political order, based on the right of peoples to peace, sovereignty, just exchange, transfer of financial and technological resources, ecological preservation and meeting the basic human needs of the population;

(b) To study and promote human rights conceived as universal and indivisible;

(c) To take part in the implementation of community humanitarian projects in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental national and foreign institutions.

Participation in the work of the Council or in its subsidiary bodies and/or attendance at United Nations conferences

The Félix Varela Center attended the following:

(a) Commission on Human Rights, fifty-third session, Geneva, 10 March-18 April 1997;

(b) Commission on Human Rights, fifty-fourth session, Geneva, 16 March-24 April 1998;

(c) Commission for Social Development, thirty-sixth session, New York, 10-20 February 1998;

(d) Commission for Social Development, thirty-seventh session, New York, 9-19 February 1999;

(e) Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives, first and second sessions, New York, 17-28 May 1999 and 3-14 April 2000;

(f) Twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives, Geneva, 26-30 June 2000;

(g) Geneva 2000 Forum, Geneva, 22-30 June 2000;

(h) People's Millenium Forum, New York, 22-26 May 2000.

Other activities

In 1997, FVC held six national preparatory workshops and seminars for an international conference, Ethics and the Culture of Development: Building a Sustainable Economy.

The Conference was held in 1998. It was attended by organizations and personalities from 25 countries and by 190 national participants and 160 foreign participants. As a result of the Conference, a permanent forum was set up with the aim of facilitating the process of achieving by consensus an alternative paradigm of social sustainable development for Cuba.

From 1998 to 2000, in a follow-up to the agreements reached at the Conference, FVC carried out 80 seminars and workshops on different aspects of sustainable development (health, socially responsible enterprises, green maps etc.). People from various Cuban provinces participated in these activities, and some activities took place outside the capital. A total of 10,000 persons participated.

As part of this programme, FVC distributed, nationally and internationally, to 1,400 persons in 40 countries, a monthly electronic bulletin that included United Nations information.

In May 2000, FVC opened to the public its Documentation Center on Sustainable Development, in which United Nations documents are found.

Nearly all of FVC's publications during this period were devoted to sustainable development; for instance:

(a) *Proceedings of the International Conference on Ethics and the Culture of Development: Building a Sustainable Economy* (English and Spanish), 1998;

(b) *Bioética desde una Perspectiva Cubana* (Bioethics from a Cuban Perspective), 1998;

(c) Juan Antonio Blanco, *Tercer Milenio: Una Visión Alternativa de la Postmodernidad.* (Third Millenium: An Alternative Vision of Postmodernism), 3rd edition, 1998;

(d) Paul Hawken, *La Ecología del Comercio* (The Ecology of Commerce), 1999;

(e) Mara Fuentes Avila, *Mediación en la Solución de Conflictos* (Mediation in conflict resolution), 2000;

(f) Aurora Camacho Barrero and Liliana Ariosa Rocha, *Diccionario de Términos Medio Ambientales* (Dictionary of Environmental Terms), 2000.

All publications were distributed free of cost to 1,000 universities and educational and research centres in Cuba.

FVC has an annual Elena Gil Award for the promotion of human rights and humanist ethics. Last year the Award went to the book *Learning with Children: Education for Human Rights*, from Argentina.

As part of its educational role, the Center made a video, "In search of happiness" (1998, 43 min.), which was distributed free of cost to universities and educational centres in the country. Some FVC publications as well as the video are currently in use in university courses dealing with ethics, bioethics and sociology.

Finally, community projects on ecological education and environmental health were carried out in the capital of the country — for instance, the Green Map Project, with children, and the Project for the Elderly, with senior citizens.

4. Global Education Associates

Special consultative status granted in 1989

Global Education Associates (GEA) is an association of individual and institutional associates in more than 90 countries, working to advance global systems that will ensure ecological integrity, peace, human rights, economic and social well-being, and democratic participation, with special care to include the voices and perspectives of poor and marginalized people of diverse cultural and religious traditions. In order to achieve this mission, GEA:

(a) Gathers leaders and stakeholders from diverse cultures and walks of life to share wisdom and analysis, propose shared solutions, and develop common strategies, alliances and partnerships for addressing critical global issues;

(b) Educates through interactive courses, seminars, workshops, and publications which inspire, inform, and empower people to become effective global citizens;

(c) Initiates projects, catalyses movements and develops partnerships that advance this mission.

Participation in the work of the Council and at United Nations conferences and meetings

GEA attended the preparatory committee meetings leading to the World Summit for Children and the NGO committees preparing for the World Conference on Racism. Representatives attended the NGO and business sector hearings held by the secretariat of the Financing for Development process and attended the preparatory meetings for Financing for Development.

GEA participated in the General Assemblies of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (Observer Status in the General Assembly), held in Montreal and Amman. GEA attended the session of the non-proliferation review conference held at United Nations Headquarters in May 2000 and the recently concluded United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, also held at United Nations Headquarters.

A representative of GEA held the position of Co-Convener of the sustainable development segment of the Millennium NGO Forum and served for two consecutive terms as the North American Regional Co-Chairperson of the NGO Steering Committee, following the annual sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

GEA holds membership in the NGO Values Caucus, which invites permanent representatives of the missions of Member States to address non-governmental organizations on the nature of their work. In addition, GEA holds membership on the NGO Committee on Disarmament and its Publications Board, the Boards of the African Services Committee, the Friends of the United Nations, and the Symphony for the United Nations.

Cooperation with programmes and bodies relating to the United Nations and to the specialized agencies

GEA cooperates programmatically with the following United Nations bodies:

(a) Department of Public Information (United Nations Secretariat): GEA attended the Thursday briefings sponsored by the Department and participated in the annual TV Forum;

(b) World Bank: GEA was invited to participate in the World Bank Conference on Culture and Development (Florence, Italy, 1-4 October 1999) and participated in the lunch-time briefings given by representatives of the Bank.

Meetings with World Bank officials, in New York and Nairobi, continued to explore collaboration on a development project in Kisumu, Kenya;

(c) UNICEF: GEA continued conversations with UNICEF around collaboration in educational programmes in South Africa and in Kenya;

(d) UNESCO: GEA's representative participated in conferences sponsored by the International Olympic Committee, such as the Conference on Sports and Education for a Culture of Peace (Paris, July 1999);

(e) UNEP: GEA representatives participated in the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly (Rio +5) (Rio de Janeiro, 1997). At the special session, GEA facilitated the holding of a side event for the city of Stockholm, Sweden, on its Hammarby Sjostad project, bringing together city planners, the Vice Mayor of Stockholm, and the then Minister of the Environment of Sweden, for a discussion of urban sustainability. During the Millennium NGO Forum, GEA was invited by UNEP to bring together 25 non-governmental organization representatives to form the basis of a working group on the cultural and spiritual values of biodiversity. In 1996-1997, a GEA representative served as a full-time consultant to UNEP as coordinator of the UNEP Interfaith Partnership for the Environment and served as preliminary editor of the second edition of *Earth and Faith*, a 100-page handbook on faith traditions and the environment. In May 2000, GEA was an invited participant in the non-governmental organization segment of the ministerial segment of the UNEP Governing Council (Malmö, Sweden), and was invited to co-present the non-governmental organization statement presented to the plenary of that meeting;

(f) UNDP: During the Millennium Forum, GEA was invited to bring together 15 regional non-governmental organization representatives to discuss issues of importance to non-governmental organizations and UNDP.

Other activities

Earth Charter partnership

GEA has continued its partnership with the Earth Charter Initiative, through membership on the North American Earth Charter Committee, in order to enhance the possibility that the Charter will have the broad political support and public will to move legislatures and heads of State to approval and implementation of its principles.

New Foundations Program

The New Foundations Program is a year-long educational programme that provides intensive learning experience in earth literacy and global systemic change. Participants consider ways in which they and their networks can contribute to the development of global ethics, policies and systems based on ecological integrity, peace, economic and social well-being, human rights, and democratic participation. In addition to the core curriculum, they choose an individual focus area for in-depth study, and participate in briefings, meetings and conferences at the United Nations.

Global citizenship education

GEA's programme for global citizenship is offered to educational, civic and religious groups seeking to assume their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the planet in the twenty-first century. Through workshops, seminars and institutes, groups are brought together to explore partnership and leadership systems and models to advance humane and ecologically responsible global systems.

Religion and the world order

GEA continued its involvement in interfaith dialogue through its involvement with United Religions Initiative and through planned theological dialogue seminars which are to include representatives from various United Nations agencies. GEA programme directors, and students and faculties in schools of religious studies, for the purpose of facilitating and promoting the concept of global citizenship.

Religious orders partnership

Increasing globalization and interdependence necessitate the development of more humane and effective global systems. Religious orders reach many people through their schools, universities and health-care, social and community-service groups. GEA provides a forum where networks of religious orders can serve the global community. Through partnership with United Nations agencies (e.g., UNICEF in Africa), religious orders can understand and respond more creatively to the crisis and opportunities of our interdependent world and be more effective in efforts for global systemic change.

5. International Association for Impact Assessment

Special consultative status granted in 1989

Aims and purposes

The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) was organized in 1980 to bring together researchers, practitioners, and users of various types of impact assessment from all parts of the world. As of 2000, its membership numbered more than 2,500, including affiliate membership figures, from over 100 countries, a considerable increase from previous years both in size and in distribution outside North America and Europe. In previous years IAIA received funding from the World Bank and UNDP, mainly to support the participation of international members in training courses held in conjunction with its annual meetings. In addition to official activities of the Association, many individual members have contributed in their professional and private capacities to the work of the United Nations.

IAIA's goals are:

(a) To advance the state of the art of impact assessment in applications ranging from local to global;

(b) To develop international and local capabilities to anticipate, plan, and manage the consequences of development to enhance the quality of life for all.

In furtherance of its purposes, the Association may:

(a) Publish, edit, or otherwise disseminate to practitioners and the general public articles, journals, books, monographs, audio-visual materials, and newsletters concerning the practice of impact assessment;

(b) Hold meetings, conferences, seminars, and other sessions at which information concerning the practice of impact assessment can be disseminated;

(c) Promote, enhance, and encourage the exchange of information among practitioners and users of impact assessment and the general public;

(d) Improve the quality and professionalism of persons in the field of impact assessment;

(e) Otherwise encourage the growth and development of the field of impact assessment, the development of techniques in the field of impact assessment, and the public understanding of and participation in the field of impact assessment.

The fields of impact assessment which have particular relevance to United Nations concerns have been environmental impact assessment and, to a much lesser extent, technology assessment. In recent years, social impact assessment is finding application in various social development contexts, such as gender assessment and poverty assessment.

Participation in United Nations meetings

IAIA officers and members participated in and contributed to a number of United Nations meetings over the past four years, including:

(a) Rio + 5: statement by the President of IAIA, supporting Agenda 21 and endorsing principle 17 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development;

(b) Copenhagen + 5: preparatory committee, 15-16 May 1998;

(c) Thirty-sixth session of the Commission on Social Development;

(d) Ninth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development: statement on social impact assessment, 19 February 1998.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

IAIA cooperated closely with UNEP, particularly with the Environment and Trade Department. Sessions on trade and environment are planned for the 2001 meeting in Cartagena, Colombia.

IAIA attended sessions of the Commission on Human Rights. Many IAIA members share concern for the welfare of indigenous peoples, a topic at numerous sessions. A Section on Indigenous Issues has formed within IAIA, and guidelines on indigenous peoples for the Canadian International Development Agency were drawn up by an officer of IAIA.

Sessions on human rights approaches to social impact assessment were organized by IAIA at its meeting in 1997.

Consultations with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

Informal consultations and cooperation have taken place with various Secretariat bodies, such as the Office of the Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. With regard to the latter, for example, reviews were conducted on drafts for various reports of the Secretary-General.

Preparation of papers at the request of the United Nations

Two papers were prepared in the area of poverty assessment:

C. P. Wolf (ed.), *Combating Poverty: The Korean Experience*, prepared for the United Nations Development Programme (Seoul, 1998);

C. P. Wolf, "A normative approach to poverty assessment", prepared for the (then) Department of Development Support and Management Services training seminar, "Strengthening Linkages between Social and Economic Development and Management of Natural Resources and Energy" (April 1997).

Other activities

Poverty assessment

An informal poverty assessment network was authorized by the IAIA Board of Directors in 1997 and has worked to involve members in this area of concern, most recently a community-based poverty reduction effort in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, initiated through the IAIA/Nigeria affiliate. At the headquarters level, an IAIA representative was instrumental in the formation of the Subcommittee on the Eradication of Poverty of the NGO Committee on Social Development of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

Biodiversity

The President of IAIA issued a statement in May 1998 in response to the communiqué from the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity at the fourth Conference of the Parties. The Association's Ecology Section expanded on that interest in several annual IAIA meetings, and notably at the workshop in 1998 on biodiversity and impact assessment. Their effort was reflected in the subsequent Conference of the Parties at Bratislava, Slovakia. Building on that success, the Executive Secretary of IAIA/Cameroon collaborated in organizing a regional seminar on the topic in Yaounde in March 1999.

Globalization

Since 1998 papers on globalization have been presented at IAIA annual meetings. An initiative was launched to establish a task force on global impact assessment. In June 1999, IAIA issued a statement to the World Economic Leading Structures (WELS), calling upon them to demonstrate leadership in promoting sustainable development, as agreed in the context of Agenda 21 and related policy initiatives.

Social development

The twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly on social development agreed on a number of initiatives or commitments that touch on interests pertaining to the field of impact assessment and on which members of IAIA might reasonably be expected to contribute in future.

6. International Road Transport Union

Special consultative status granted in 1949

The objective of the International Road Transport Union (IRU) is to contribute, in the interest of society as a whole, to the promotion and prosperity, in all countries, of national and international road transport and to safeguard the role of professional road transport.

Since 1997, IRU has admitted new members from Armenia, Iceland, Mongolia and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Cooperation with the United Nations

Transport facilitation

IRU has been an active participant at annual meetings of the ECE Inland Transport Committee and its Principal Working Party on Road Transport. The main questions addressed by IRU have been:

(a) Reducing non-tariff barriers in international road transport. IRU has submitted proposals on the facilitation of border crossings in central and eastern Europe, on the mitigation of the visa problem for professional drivers employed in international transport, and on the adoption of a new annex on the facilitation of border crossings to the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods (1982);

(b) United Nations agreements and Conventions. IRU actively promotes the adoption and practical implementation of United Nations multilateral legal instruments on road transport in central and eastern Europe, in particular in newly independent States, as well as in Asia; support and guidance to various EU aid projects on road transport. It contributed to the elaboration of a draft revision of the European agreement concerning the work of crews of vehicles engaged in international road transport and to discussion on a draft revision of the consolidated resolution on the facilitation of road transport;

(c) Assistance to countries in transition. An IRU strategy for the enlargement of the European Union and regular progress reports on the state of road transport in candidate countries were adopted. Seminars and conferences were organized on aspects of transition and on East/West cooperation in transport. The third edition of the IRU handbook on the European harmonization of road transport legislation was prepared.

Transports Internationaux Routiers

IRU has been in charge of the daily application of the guarantee chain of the Transports Internationaux Routiers (TIR) Convention for almost 50 years. Through reports on developments and proposals, IRU plays an active and major role in improving and safeguarding the TIR system. It also participates actively in the implementation of an international control system for TIR carnets, set up in accordance with a Recommendation by the Administrative Committee of the TIR Convention (20 October 1995), developing a computerized network between 46 customs administrations, national transport associations and IRU. Despite the obvious benefits of this modern and efficient control system for all parties and all participants in facilitating the work of customs officials and in intensifying the fight against fraud in the transit systems, IRU has not received all the active support it has sought from all of the international bodies concerned and from national authorities. IRU is actively working on the computerization of TIR procedures in order to ensure that expectations are realistic and useful for all transport, trade and customs administrations.

Road safety

IRU followed the work of the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), attending its meetings, informing the members of its own Road Safety Commission and defining, with the latter, standpoints to be defended at the former.

IRU played an active role in initiating the ECE Multidisciplinary Group of Experts on Safety in Tunnels and has taken an active part in its work. IRU drew the attention of the delegates to its own work in this field, especially relating to the interface between commercial vehicle drivers and other road users, notably by the publication of mass-distribution leaflets addressed to young two-wheeled vehicle riders and to its road safety management programme for road transport operators (passenger and goods transport).

Combined transport

At the suggestion of IRU, the question of liability in intermodal transport is now being considered.

Construction of vehicles

IRU advocated the introduction of on-board diagnostics in order to have engine performance at its optimal level all the time.

Sustainable development

UNECE Programme of Joint Action

With its *Guide to Sustainable Development*, IRU has made a substantial contribution to the Programme of Joint Action which was adopted by the Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment (Vienna, 1997), and which aims at implementing measures and programmes for achieving the objectives of Agenda 21. The IRU *Guide* contains national action programmes already implemented by IRU member associations as well as IRU modules for the implementation of further

programmes. The IRU *Guide* was presented to the transport and environment divisions at ECE, and IRU participates regularly in the work and meetings of the ECE experts on transport and environment.

United Nations Global Compact

IRU and its agenda for sustainable development have become part of the United Nations Global Compact Initiative for Sectoral Industry Associations, launched by the Secretary-General in January 1999. It aims at encouraging and highlighting private-sector activities designed to achieve sustainable development.

UNEP consultative meetings with industry associations

IRU continues to take an active role in UNEP's annual consultative meetings with industry associations to exchange views and ideas on how best to realize their common environmental, economic and social objectives and on how to implement best industry practices in the road haulage sector. Leading UNEP representatives have given keynote speeches at international IRU symposiums, addressing the implementation of sustainable practices. IRU will be represented in the UNEP publication, entitled "Catalysing change: how industry associations can promote sustainable development".

7. International Save the Children Alliance

General consultative status granted in 1993

The International Save the Children Alliance is composed of 30 independent national organizations working in over 100 countries. This makes Save the Children the largest independent movement fighting for the rights of the child. The work of Save the Children is based on the principles enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989 and first advocated by the founders of Save the Children. Save the Children believes that lasting benefits for children can be achieved only through changes in social values and attitudes and public policies and practices.

Participation in major conferences and other United Nations meetings

Over the past four years Save the Children focused on putting the issue of child labour on national and international agendas. It was actively involved in the International Conference on Child Labour (1997, Oslo) and the ILO annual conferences of 1998 and 1999. Save the Children campaigned for the involvement of working children and their families in programmes to address the worst forms of child labour.

Another priority area for Save the Children was the situation of children in armed conflict, in particular through the campaign to raise the age of military recruitment. Save the Children contributed to the following two United Nations studies in 2000: Graca Machel's review on the situation of children in armed conflict, and the Secretary-General's report on the situation of children in armed conflict. The reports were discussed at the International Conference on War-

Affected Children (September 2000, Winnipeg), where Save the Children raised concerns on a number of issues, including the care and protection of children separated from their families.

Education is also a priority area for Save the Children. It participated in the UNESCO Conference on Education for All (April 2000, Dakar). The main issues raised by Save the Children at the Conference were the quality of education and the lack of available resources for education.

Save the Children has been taking part in the preparation process, at the national, regional and international levels, for:

(a) The special session of the General Assembly on children, to be held in September 2001. Save the Children is seeking to ensure that an approach on the rights of the child is integrated into the outcome document and that the document results in concrete actions. Save the Children is also facilitating the participation of children and young people in setting the agenda for the next 10 years;

(b) World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to be held in Durban, August 2001. Save the Children contributed to the preparations, with examples of racial discrimination in the field of education and against Roma, addressed the problem of racism on the Internet, and made recommendations on all of the above issues to participating States;

(c) Second World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, to be held in Yokohama, December 2001. There is a Save the Children task group working on the preparations for this Congress. Among other tasks, the group will be responsible for the media coverage of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and will second panellists and lecturers and finance thematic reports.

Cooperation with the Commission on Human Rights and related bodies

Save the Children attended the sessions of the Commission for the past four years, presenting written and oral statements on discrimination in access to education, discrimination against Roma and other minorities in Europe, child soldiers, and the impact of economic policy formulation on the rights of the child. Save the Children also organized child rights caucuses at the past two sessions.

Save the Children cooperates with the NGO Liaison Unit in Geneva. The aim of the Unit is to facilitate the link between the community of non-governmental organizations and the Committee on the Rights of the Child in terms of submission of alternative reports, participation in thematic days and access to relevant information on the rights of the child. Save the Children also provides support for the establishment and development of national coalitions of non-governmental organizations to promote the ratification and implementation of the Convention. It also provides additional information and comments to the Committee to supplement the periodic reports on individual States. Save the Children also advises and assists national Governments to develop policies, legislative, administrative and other measures necessary for the implementation of the rights recognized in the Convention.

Cooperation with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

The International Save the Children Alliance and individual member organizations of the Alliance cooperate on a regular basis with UNICEF, UNHCR, UNDP, UNAIDS, ILO and WFP. Specific examples of such cooperation can be seen in:

(a) Action for the Rights of Children (ARC). This is a training and capacity-building initiative undertaken by the Alliance, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNHCHR to increase the capacity of the United Nations, Governments and non-governmental organization field staff to protect and care for children and adolescents who are refugees;

(b) Training United Nations peacekeeping forces on the rights and needs of children in war-affected areas;

(c) Emergency standby agreement with UNHCR to enhance emergency response to meet the needs for immediate protection and care of children and adolescents in refugee emergencies;

(d) Save the Children participation in the WHO/UNICEF meeting on programming for adolescent development (Washington, D.C., July 2000);

(e) Save the Children contributed to the development of the "Principles to guide programming for orphans and other vulnerable children", a project of UNICEF/UNAIDS/USAID (Lusaka, November 2000);

(f) Save the Children participated in the WHO Massive Attack Conference (October 2000).

8. International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies

Special consultative status granted in 1993

Aims and purpose

The International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (ISTSS) is dedicated to the discovery and dissemination of knowledge and to advancing policy, programme and service initiatives that seek to reduce traumatic stressors and their immediate and long-term consequences. Since its inception in 1985, the Society has provided a forum for the sharing of research, clinical strategies, public policy concerns and theoretical formulations on trauma around the world through its education and training programmes and publications. The ISTSS commitment to the international dimensions of traumatic stress renders its involvement with all relevant aspects of the work of the United Nations an integral part of its mission. From 1993 to the present, the number of countries represented in the Society's membership has increased from 29 to 39.

The main areas of interest to ISTSS are: health and mental health, human rights, violence/war, conflict resolution, refugees, culture and religion, women, children, crime — domestic and transnational, international justice; socio-economic, poverty and development concerns; and political affairs.

Participation in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies

ISTSS representatives attended the sessions of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary organs, including the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission (including the Working Group on Indigenous Populations), the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Commission on Sustainable Development.

ISTSS representatives made oral and written statements at the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (April 2000, Vienna) and convened and chaired four major ancillary meetings. During the period under review, at least one representative participated in informal discussions during the sessions of the Commission for Social Development; the UNICEF Executive Board meetings; a working group on a resolution on children with disabilities, adopted by the Commission on Social Development (March 1997), and most meetings related to children in armed conflict. ISTSS also attended the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (June-July 1998, Rome).

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies

ISTSS contributed to planning the World Mental Health Day meetings. A member of the Mental Health Committee, ISTSS representatives actively participated in the NGO Consultation for the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women, prior to the forty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women; a representative participated, through the Working Group on Gender Perspectives of the Mental Health Committee, in framing a joint statement to the Commission. A representative participated in all Preparatory Committee and Commission meetings for the establishment of the International Criminal Court (ICC), making numerous oral and written presentations. By invitation, the representative participated in international and inter-sessional meetings for drafting both the statute and the rules of procedure and evidence of the ICC, particularly regarding victims, children and the disabled. A representative participated in the second preparatory committee for the World Summit for Children. A representative is actively involved with the NGO Committees on Human Rights (chairing the Human Rights and Health Working Group and the Gender Perspectives Subcommittee), on Sustainable Development, and on Health Communications. ISTSS takes part in the work of the Ethics and the Environment Subcommittee, and the Women's Caucus for Gender Justice. A representative led the Victims Rights Working Group of the NGO Coalition for an ICC and is on the Executive Committee of the NGO Alliance of Crime Control and Criminal Justice.

Other relevant activities

An ISTSS representative is a member of the executive board of the NGO Committee on Mental Health.

In 1998, an ISTSS representative initiated a formal project with the Division for Social Policy and Development and with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, to establish an international working group on trauma so as to bring scientific knowledge about trauma to health professionals, public policy makers and others, and to recommend intervention strategies for trauma survivors at the policy, community, family, and individual levels.

A representative has led an ongoing project entitled, "Promoting a dialogue: Democracy cannot be built with the hands of broken souls", across Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1996, at the invitation of the Governments of Sweden and Germany.

An ISTSS representative was invited by the Ministry of Justice of Rwanda to serve as an international expert in drafting the laws on reparations for victims in Rwanda.

Publications

An ISTSS representative served as chief editor of the book *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Fifty Years and Beyond*, published in 1999 for and on behalf of the United Nations by Baywood Publishing Company. The book had a foreword by Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan, and an epilogue by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson.

ISTSS representatives wrote eight articles on the United Nations, published in *Traumatic StressPoints*, the Society's newsletter:

"Building bridges to the next millennium: the blueprints are ready" (Vol. 11, No. 2, Spring 1997);

"UN commitment to the status of mentally disabled persons in developing countries" (Vol. 11, No. 3, Fall 1997);

"Armed conflicts impact on children: A United Nations report" (Vol. 11, No. 1, Winter 1997);

"A step toward meeting the rights of victims" (Vol. 12, No. 1, Winter 1998);

"Refugees and internally displaced persons: challenges confronting the international community" (Vol. 12, No. 4, Fall 1998);

"Report to the United Nations alleges violation of women's rights in Tibet" (Vol. 13, No. 2, Spring 1999);

"ISTSS supports International Criminal Court" (Vol. 13, No. 4, Fall 1999);

"ISTSS and United Nations collaborate on the International Working Group on Trauma" (Vol. 14, No. 3, Summer 2000).

9. World Evangelical Fellowship

Special consultative status granted in 1997

World Evangelical Fellowship (WEF) is a global network of 114 national and regional evangelical church alliances, 96 organizational ministries and six specialized ministries with a service constituency of approximately 160 million. In the 1990s WEF positioned itself as the pre-eminent church-based Evangelical organization in the world. WEF members, such as the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches and the Association of Evangelicals in Africa (AEA) have spearheaded work in relief and development, church planting, leadership development, evangelism, and human rights within their nations and regions. The WEF International Council, the highest decision-making body, has representatives from all over the world, primarily from developing countries in the "two thirds" world.

Participation in the work of the Council

WEF has been an active participant in United Nations meetings, presenting oral statements, providing information to experts, members and the Secretariat, and cooperating with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies.

WEF took part, as indicated, in the following recent meetings:

(a) Preparatory Committee for the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (1-5 May 2000, Geneva);

(b) Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, fifty-second session (31 July-18 August 2000, Geneva): oral statements made on human rights and fundamental freedoms; elimination of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief; and minorities;

(c) Commission on Human Rights, fifty-sixth session (20 March-28 April 2000, Geneva): oral statements made on civil and political rights; human rights and fundamental freedoms; and minorities;

(d) Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, fifty-first session (2-27 August 1999, Geneva): oral statements made on violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(e) Working Group on Minorities, forty-first session (25-31 May 1999).

WEF facilitated the setting-up and running of an office in Geneva to liaise with the United Nations. The full-time representative provided briefings, organized meetings, furnished information and liaised with United Nations working groups, rapporteurs and treaty monitoring bodies established under the Council in both Geneva and New York. In addition she provided information for General Assembly deliberations and liaised with and furnished information to other United Nations agencies, including UNHCR, UNICEF, ILO and WHO. WEF worked actively on the following thematic mandates of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: special rapporteurs on intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief; racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; torture; right to food; right to adequate housing; freedom of opinion and expression; sale of children; child prostitution and child pornography; impact of armed conflict on children;

elimination of violence against women; special representative on internally displaced persons, and on the Working Groups on Arbitrary Detention, Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, Minorities and Transnational Corporations.

WEF has been instrumental in establishing, through the Council, pathways of peace and dialogue and openings for reconciliation. Through the relationships it helped to establish, constructive and far-reaching discussions and programmes have been set in place to promote greater understanding and religious and racial harmony. WEF's Commission on Women's Concerns is active in promoting the social and economic progress of women, and WEF as a whole serves to ease interreligious tensions by promoting better understanding and bridge-building. Its function as the worldwide representative body for 160 million Evangelicals places it in a pivotal position to accomplish those objectives and WEF values the cooperation with the Economic and Social Council in doing so.

In April 2000 WEF's legal adviser was actively engaged in the adoption of a resolution by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on restorative justice, in conjunction with another non-governmental organization with consultative status, Prison Fellowship International. In addition, the adviser organized the Rule of Law Forum at the United Nations in New York City as a vehicle for diplomats to meet informally and to discuss human rights, conflict resolution and ethics.

10. World Resources Institute

Special consultative status granted in 1989

The World Resources Institute (WRI) is an independent environmental think tank that goes beyond research to create practical ways to protect the earth and improve people's lives. Founded in 1982, WRI continues to be an active and consistent contributor to many United Nations processes and programmes. WRI provides — and helps other institutions provide — objective information and practical proposals for policy and institutional change that will foster environmentally sound, socially equitable development. With more than 150 partners in over 50 developing countries, economies in transition, and OECD countries, and a broad spectrum of international organizations, WRI works towards four broad goals:

(a) To reverse the rapid degradation of ecosystems;

(b) To protect the global climate system from further harm;

(c) To guarantee people's access to information and decisions;

(d) To break the connection between greater prosperity and increased use of materials and generation of wastes. WRI is a private, not-for-profit corporation that receives financial support from foundations, governmental and intergovernmental institutions, private corporations, and concerned individuals.

Participation in United Nations meetings

One or more WRI representatives participated in the following meetings of the United Nations, inter alia:

1997

Third Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (Kyoto); fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York); nineteenth special session of the General Assembly (New York); tenth Conference of the Parties to CITES (Harare); first Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification (Rome).

1998

Fourth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Bratislava); Working Group on Biosafety, Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn); sixth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York); second Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification (Dakar).

1999

Working Groups on Biosafety of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Cartagena and Montreal) and Expert's Panel on Benefit-sharing (San José); Workshop on Kyoto Mechanisms of the Framework Convention on Climate Change (Bonn) and fifth Conference of the Parties (Bonn); third Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification (Recife); and seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York).

2000

Millennium Summit of the United Nations (New York); fifth Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nairobi) and Working Group on Biosafety (Montpellier); sixth Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change (The Hague); fourth Conference of the Parties to the Convention to Combat Desertification (Bonn); UNEP Ministers of Environment Meeting (Malmo); eighth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York); ministerial signing of the Aarhus Convention (Dubrovnik); high-level meeting on the Global Compact (New York).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

World Resources Institute cooperated extensively with many United Nations agencies throughout the past four years. It worked in collaboration with UNDP, UNEP and the World Bank on two editions of the *World Resources Report*. In addition to WRI's active participation in the processes of the Convention on Climate Change, the Convention Secretariat requested, and WRI provided, research on land use, land-use change and forests. WRI continues to be at the forefront in studying the science of climate change, thinking creatively about climate policy and promoting economically sound options for consideration by the world's policy makers and opinion leaders. WRI is a member of FAO's Advisory Committee on

Fisheries Research and contributed to the meeting of the working party on status and trends of fisheries (Rome, 1999).

Other relevant activities

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment is a global initiative, initially spearheaded by WRI, to strengthen capacity to manage ecosystems sustainably for human well-being. The Assessment is endorsed by the United Nations Secretary-General. In *We the Peoples: The Role of the United Nations in the 21st Century* (April 2000), he states, "The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment is an outstanding example of the sort of international scientific and political cooperation that is needed to further the cause of sustainable development ... I call on Member States to help provide the necessary financial support for the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and to become actively engaged in it."

Throughout the past four years, WRI, in cooperation with UNEP and the World Conservation Union, has continued to host the Global Biodiversity Forum, in conjunction with meetings on the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Forum allows Governments, non-governmental organizations, communities, scientists, natural resource managers, and others to guide and influence international decisions concerning biodiversity. The Forum has evolved into a strategic process that provides information and generates debate on critical issues.

At the request of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), WRI staff regularly provide scientific review of proposals. GEF provides important financial resources to the Global Biodiversity Forum and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

WRI received the first grant ever made by the United Nations Foundation. The grant supported WRI researchers in exploring possible energy futures in China.